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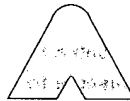
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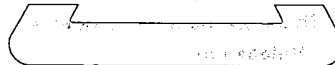
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Page ____ of ____

Attachment to Z-11291/81
NPIC/IEG (07/81)Copy 30

17 JULY 1981

FITTER DEPLOYMENT
BAI THUONG AIRFIELD, VIETNAM

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1. (S/D) SIGNIFICANCE: FITTER AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN OPERATIONALLY DEPLOYED TO AN AIRFIELD WITHIN COMBAT RANGE OF THE SINO-VIETNAMESE BORDER.
2. (S/D) REMARKS: THE FIRST OPERATIONAL DEPLOYMENT OF FITTER AIRCRAFT IN VIETNAM WAS OBSERVED AT BAI THUONG AIRFIELD. TWELVE FITTER J WERE PRESENT ON [REDACTED] THESE AIRCRAFT WERE PROBABLY TRANSFERRED FROM DA NANG AIRFIELD [REDACTED] WHERE INCOMING SOVIET-PROVIDED AIRCRAFT ARE ASSEMBLED AND TEST FLOWN. A HIGH COUNT OF 24 FITTER J AND 13 OTHER FITTER WERE IDENTIFIED AT DA NANG IN APRIL 1981. THE FITTER J IS THE LATEST DESIGNATED MODEL OF THE FITTER SERIES. WHILE THE J MODEL CAN BE UTILIZED FOR RECONNAISSANCE AND INTERCEPT PURPOSES, ITS PRIMARY ROLE IS GROUND ATTACK. FITTER HAVE BEEN OBSERVED AT DA NANG SINCE JANUARY 1980.

(S/D) BAI THUONG AIRFIELD WAS ABANDONED FOLLOWING THE VIETNAM WAR. SINCE THEN, NO AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN OBSERVED UNTIL THE ARRIVAL OF THE FITTER. RECONSTRUCTION OF THE AIRFIELD WAS FIRST OBSERVED IN JULY 1979. THE NEW 2,800- BY 49-METER CONCRETE RUNWAY WAS COMPLETE BY DECEMBER 1979.

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(S) [REDACTED] COORDINATES 19-54-04N 105-28-22E

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